

to the point of surpassing its former beauty. The house truly became a home when Beverly and Lawrence welcomed their first daughter, Mary-Ellen, soon followed by their second daughter, Hilaree.

His greatest source of pride was being the ever-present, unshakable force driving his family to excel. He lovingly encouraged and supported his wife as she advanced in her education and career. He set the bar of achievement high for his two daughters and challenged them to continue to push forward to reach even greater heights. Lawrence instilled a strong sense of self-worth in his children and constantly reminded his wife and daughters that the only limits to their successes would be those that they imposed on themselves.

Lawrence had a strong sense of humor and loved engaging in philosophical conversations. He was a free thinker who loved music and had an unyielding appreciation for the arts and creative expression. Lawrence laughed often and loved deeply. He was fixture in his community and the heartbeat of his family.

Lawrence was called home to eternity on November 6, 2022. He is preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence Sr. and Ellen.; and eldest sister, Clara; father-in-law, Nelroy; and other treasured loved ones. His memory will live on and be cherished by his loving wife of 47 years, his daughters, Hilaree and Mary-Ellen, his son-in-law Julio; and a host of loved ones.

RECOGNIZING MRS. MICHELLE  
ROMAN

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2022*

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Michelle Roman for her 11 years of service on the Kingsburg City Council and congratulate her on her retirement.

A lifelong California resident, Mrs. Roman moved her family to Kingsburg in 1999. It was after her move that she truly discovered her passion for helping her community. As her children grew older and the encouragement of her friends and family members grew stronger, she decided to run for City Council to give the children and families of Kingsburg a voice in the local government.

Mrs. Roman has now been on the Kingsburg City Council for over a decade, passionately advocating for her community. Not only has she represented her district, but she has also served as both the Mayor Pro Tem and Mayor of Kingsburg—the first woman to hold either position. In her role as Mayor of Kingsburg, Mrs. Roman served as the public face of Kingsburg, presided over City Council meetings, and continually fought to improve her community in any way she could.

Under her leadership, Kingsburg has seen incredible development. From building the city's first skateboard park to founding the Kingsburg Youth Council, to helping enact city policies that attract businesses to her community, Mrs. Roman has played a key role in improving the lives of Kingsburg residents. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she was an essential liaison between State and County officials and helped to secure grants that saved local businesses as well as a vaccination clinic that helped to save many lives.

Mrs. Roman has been a true public servant for her community and has repeatedly demonstrated her commitment to making Kingsburg a safe, prosperous, and welcoming place to call home. I wish her all the best in her well-earned retirement.

I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mrs. Michelle Roman for all she has accomplished during her 11 years of service to the City of Kingsburg.

HONORING MAYOR GEOFF  
ELLSWORTH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Geoff Ellsworth in honor of his outstanding service to the people of St. Helena, California.

Mr. Ellsworth was born in Vallejo, California and grew up in St. Helena. After graduating from Justin-Siena High School in Napa, he attended the University of Oregon, and worked with his parents Bob and Pheobe Ellsworth at their winery supply company, Compleat Winemaker. Mr. Ellsworth was elected to the St. Helena City Council in 2016 and became Mayor in 2018.

During his tenure as Mayor, Mr. Ellsworth has led St. Helena through unprecedented challenges including devastating wildfires and the COVID-19 emergency. In response, Mr. Ellsworth worked with PG&E to build new transmission lines, supported a restructuring of the city's fire department and enhanced social services during the pandemic. With his help, the city also established internal financial controls, advanced a comprehensive housing strategy and the city also passed the General Plan after more than a decade of delays. Mr. Ellsworth worked with the City Council to ensure they continued awarding \$200,000 annually to non-profits that supported the city's most vulnerable residents.

Mr. Ellsworth has represented St. Helena as a member of the Napa County League of Governments, the Napa Valley Transportation Authority, and the Napa County Watershed Information Center and Conservancy. Additionally, he has served on numerous boards and committees including the League of California Cit-

ies, the Napa County City Selection Committee, and the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

Outside of his work as a civil servant, Mr. Ellsworth is a renowned artist and musician of over 30 years, having traveled across the United States. He loves being around animals, is an avid reader, and is a frequent volunteer with local organizations.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. Ellsworth for his commitment to the people of St. Helena. His efforts have made our community a safer, greener, and more enjoyable place to live. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING SENIOR AIRMAN MATTHEW WILLIAMS UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2022*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Senior Airman Matthew Williams of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Senior Airman Matthew Williams epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Senior Airman Matthew Williams of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.